

IDW

38

COVER A

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG



STANLEY • CURRY • HERMS

SEGA®



STORY
EVAN STANLEY

ART
**EVAN STANLEY &
BRACARDI CURRY**

COLORS
MATT HERMS

LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

ASSISTANT EDITOR
RILEY FARMER

EDITOR
DAVID MARIOTTE

Special thanks to Mai Kiyotaki, Michael Cisneros, Sandra Jo, Sonic Team, and everyone at Sega for their invaluable assistance.



IDW
www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

Nachie Marsham, Publisher • Rebekah Cahalin, EVP of Operations • Blake Kobashigawa, VP of Sales • John Barber, Editor-in-Chief
Mark Doyle, Editorial Director, Originals • Justin Eisinger, Editorial Director, Graphic Novels and Collections • Scott Dunbier, Director, Special Projects
Anna Morrow, Sr. Marketing Director • Tara McCrillis, Director of Design & Production • Shauna Monteforte, Sr. Director of Manufacturing Operations
Ted Adams and Robbie Robbins, IDW Founders



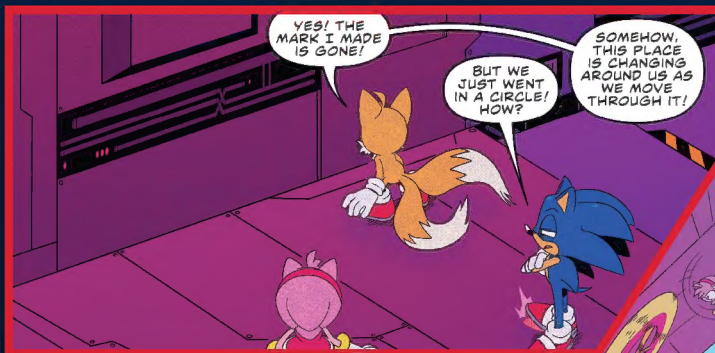
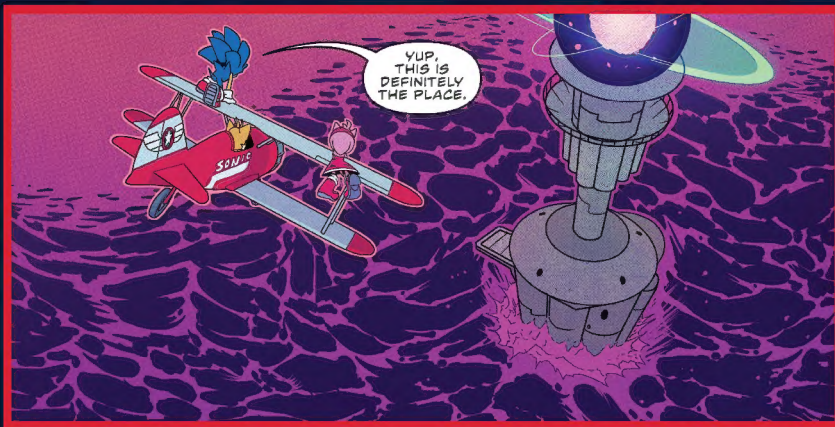
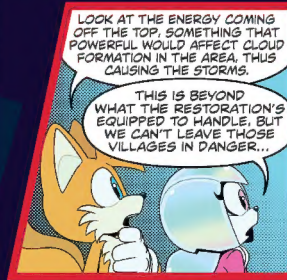
Facebook: facebook.com/idwpublishing • Twitter: @idwpublishing
YouTube: youtube.com/idwpublishing • Instagram: @idwpublishing



For international rights, contact licensing@idwpublishing.com

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #38, FEBRUARY 2021. © SEGA. All rights reserved. SEGA is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. SEGA and SONIC THE HEDGEHOG are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION.
© 2021 Idea and Design Works, LLC. All Rights Reserved. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2765 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

STORY SO FAR





SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

The Blue Blur.
Fastest Thing Alive.



AMY ROSE

Hammer-swinging Heroine.
Restoration ally.



MILES "TAILS" PROWER

Tech-savvy Sidekick.
High-flying genius.



TANGLE THE LEMUR

Excitable Hero.
Elastic-tailed brawler.



BELLE THE TINKERER

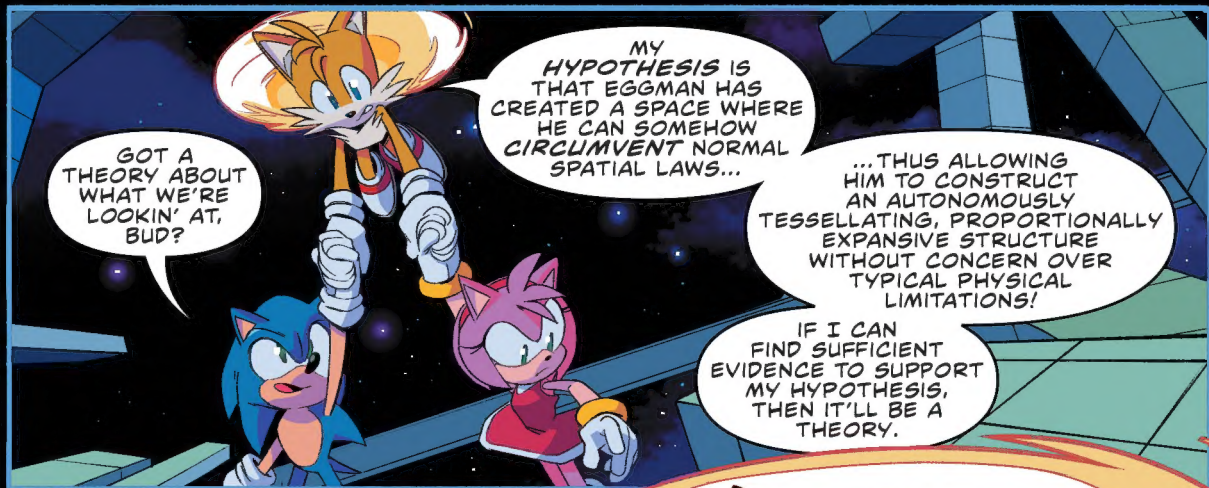
Enthusiastic new-comer.
Clumsy Marionette.

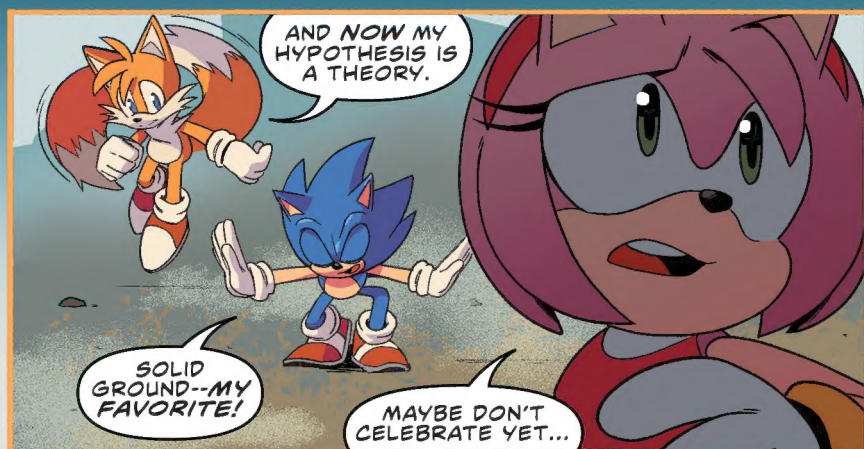


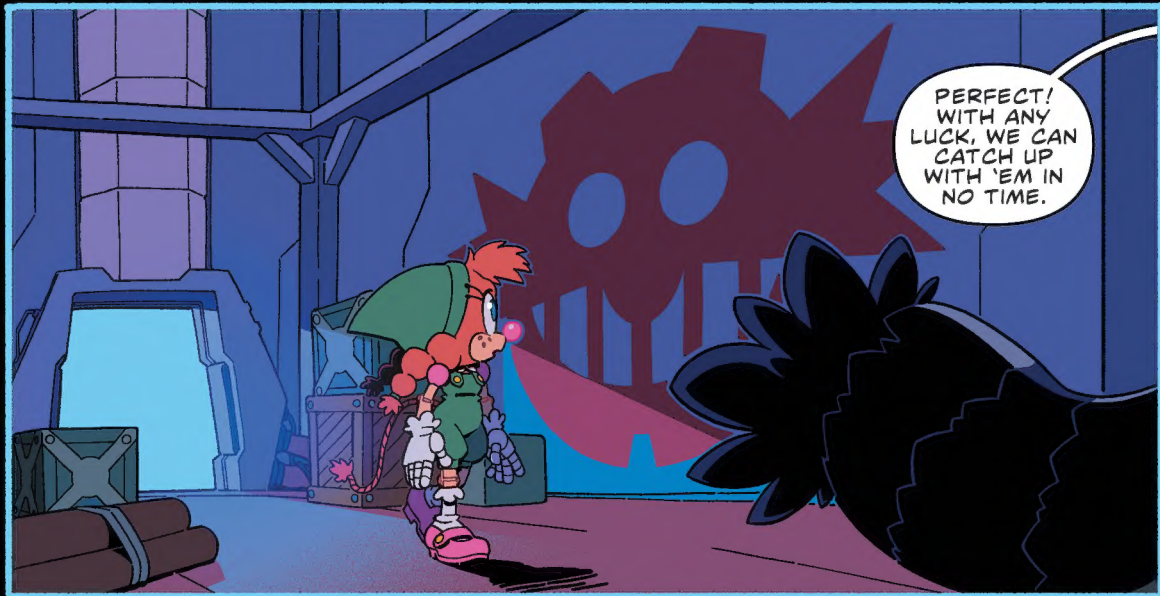
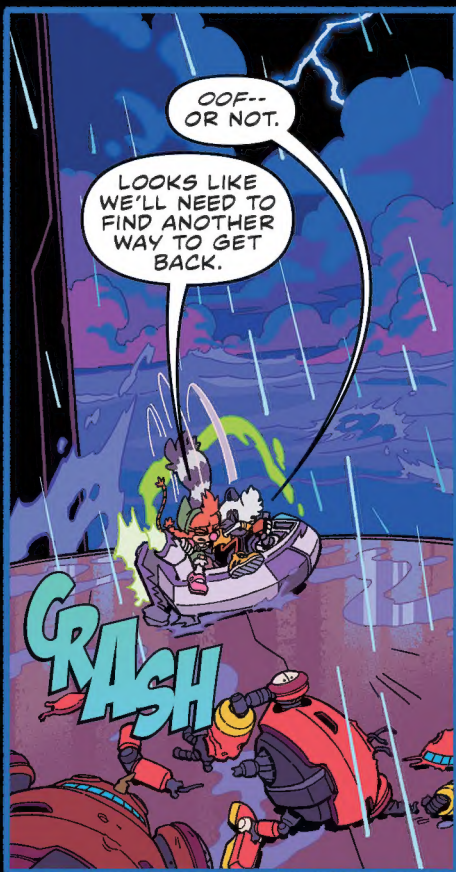
WHOOAAA...

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT I
EXPECTED, BUT
IT WASN'T
THIS!













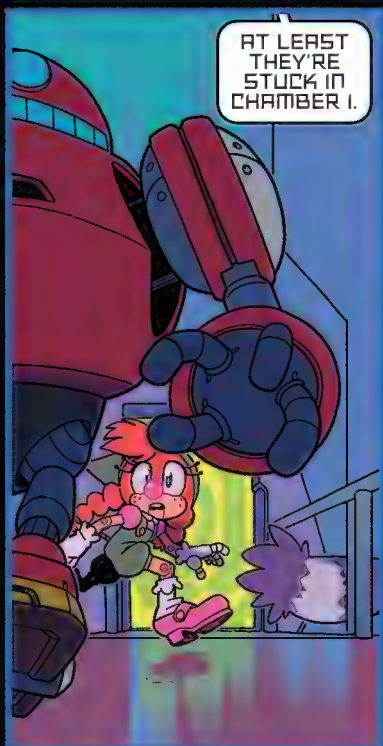
...HAS THAT
PAWN SQUAD
GOTTEN THE
HOLE FIXED
YET?

LOOKS
LIKE THEY
ALL GOT
LOST.



SEND IN ANOTHER
ONE, THEN. OH,
WHAT A MESS. SO
MUCH FOR HAVING A
NICE, QUIET JOB.

HOW DID
SONIC AND
HIS FRIENDS
EVEN FIND
OUT
ABOUT THIS
BASE?



AT LEAST
THEY'RE
STUCK IN
CHAMBER 1.



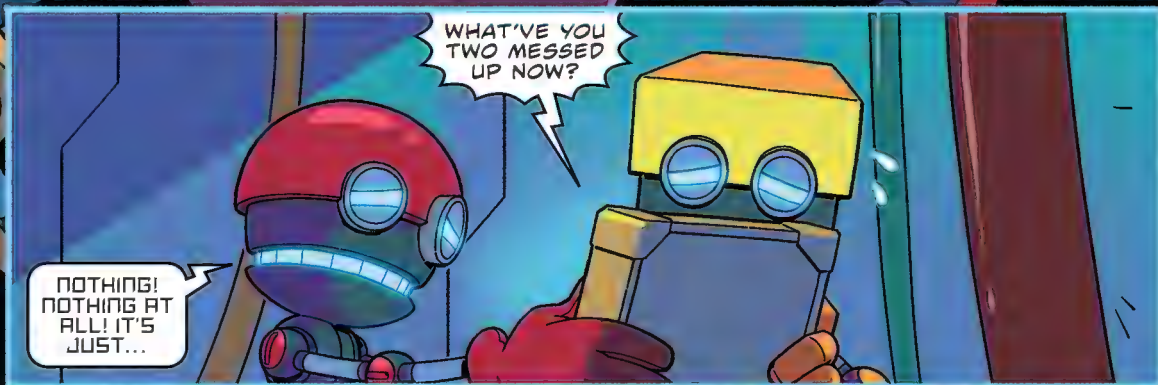
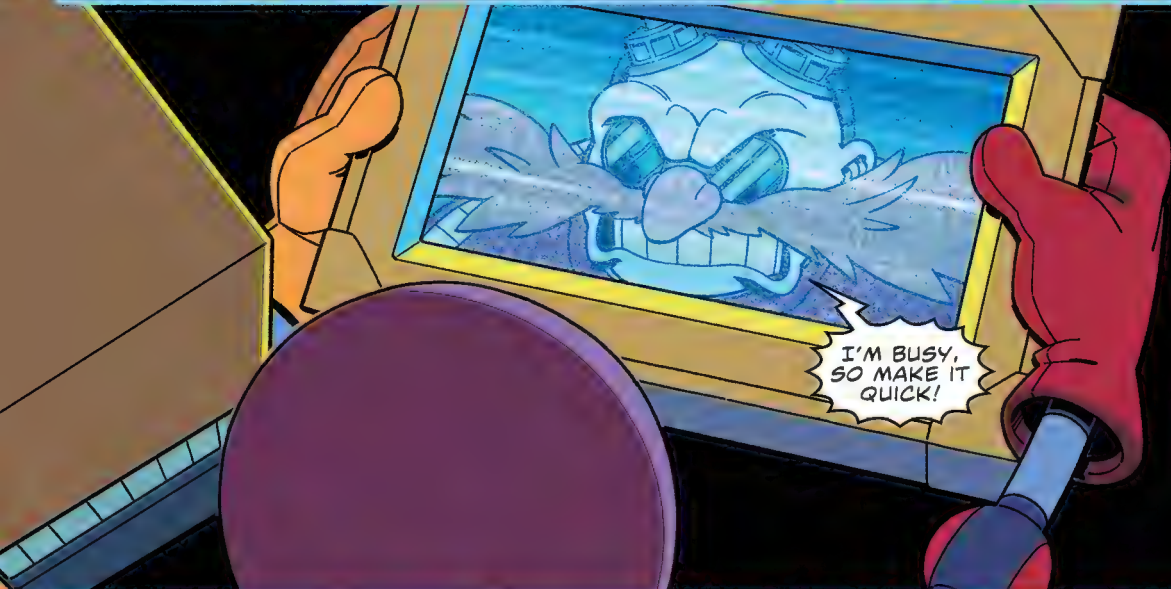
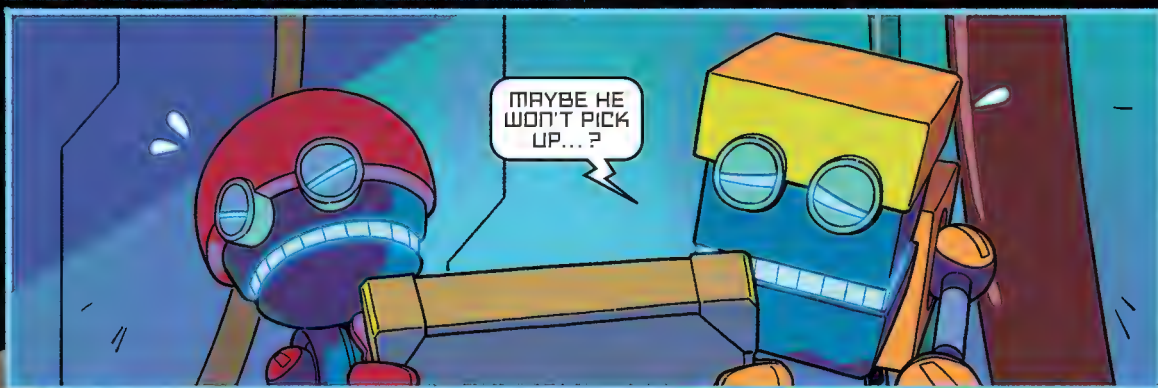
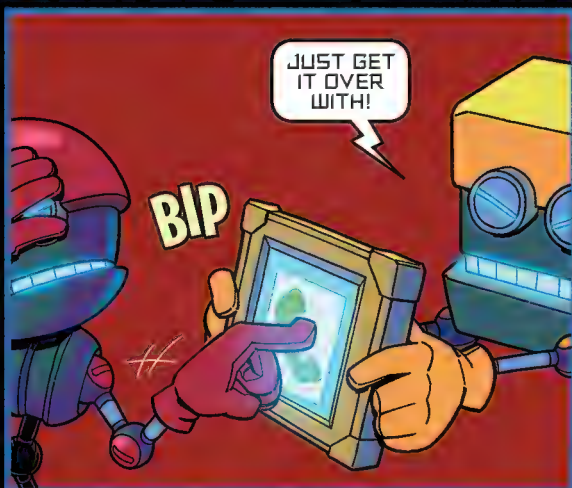
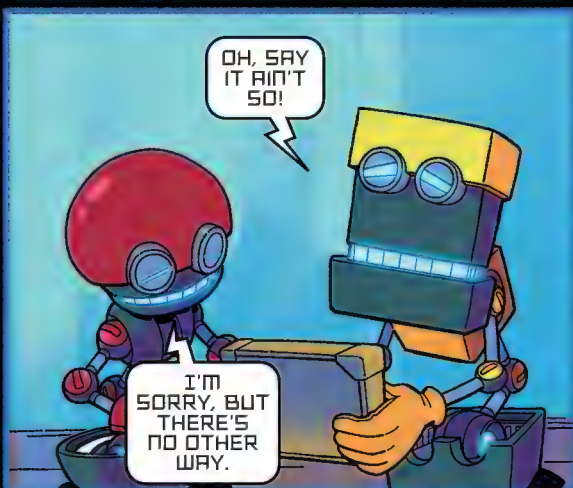
THEY
GOT INTO
CHAMBER
2.

THEY
CAN DO
THAT?!

I'M AS
SURPRISED
AS YOU
ARE!

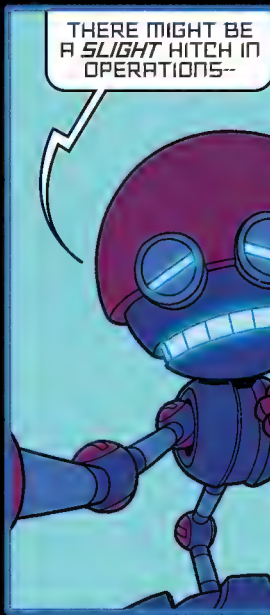


CUBOT,
YOU KNOW
WHAT WE
HAVE TO
DO.



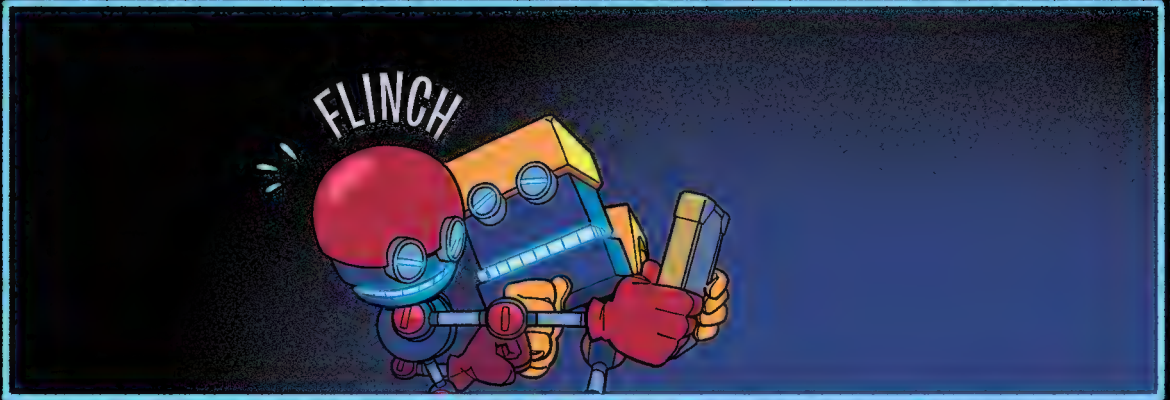


YOU'RE INTERRUPTING
SOME VERY IMPORTANT
BRAINSTORMING,
ORBOT...



THERE MIGHT BE
A *SLIGHT* HITCH IN
OPERATIONS--

--SONIC AND HIS
BUDDIES BROKE
INTO THE TEST
CHAMBERS.

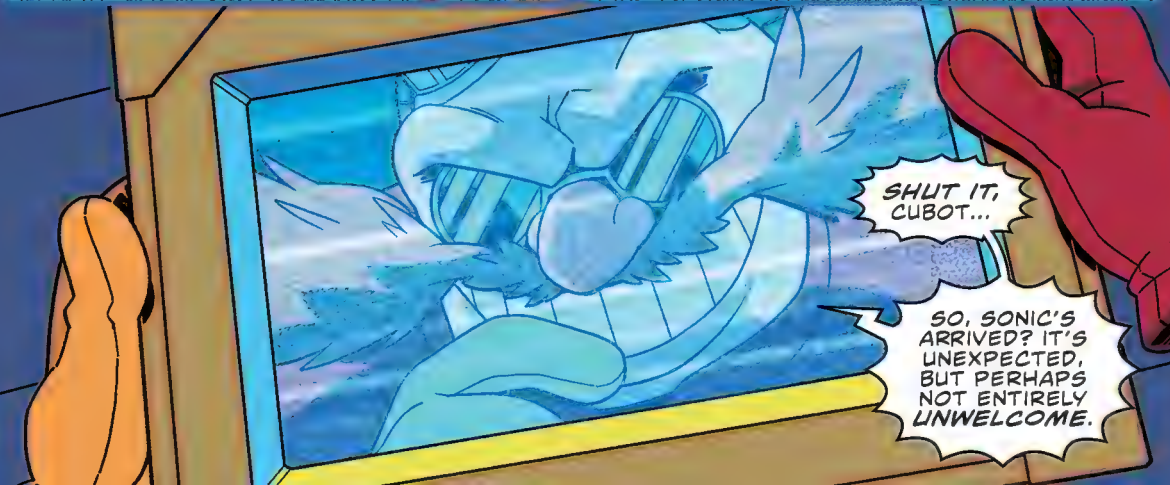


FLINCH



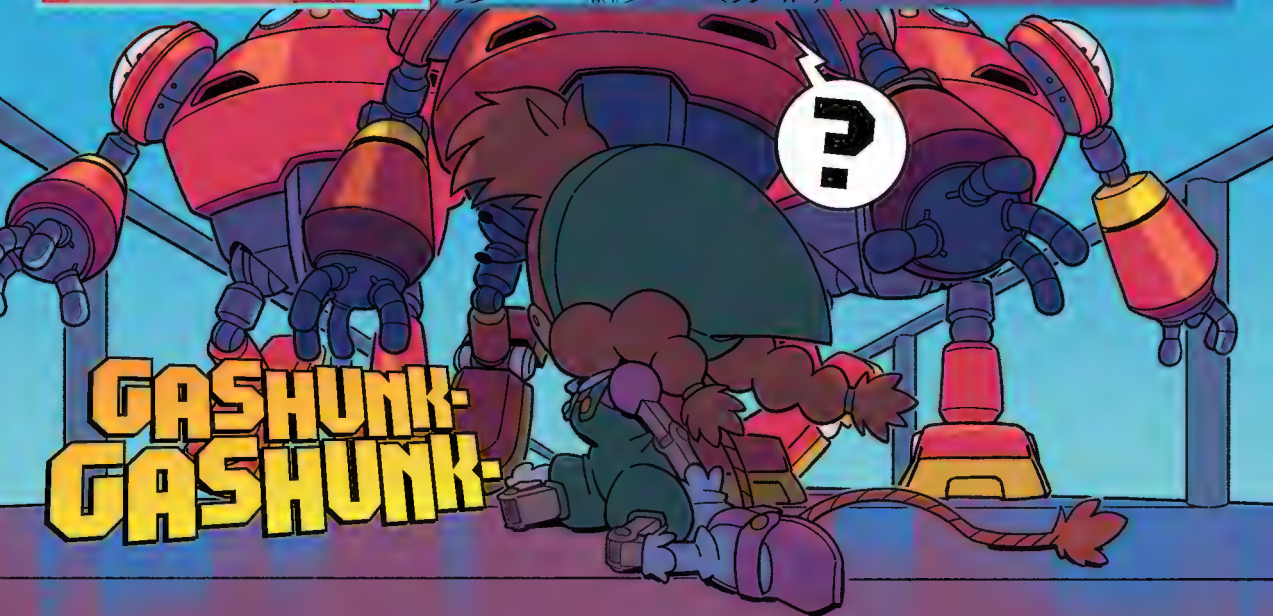
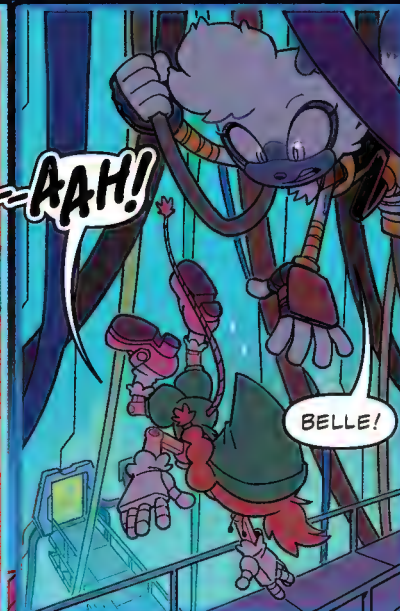
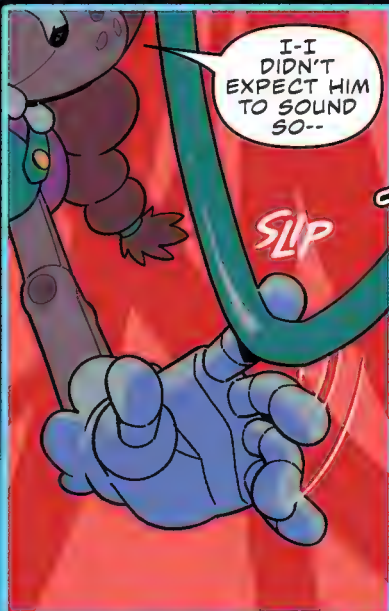
UH, BOSS?
YOU'RE NOT
YELLING AT
US.

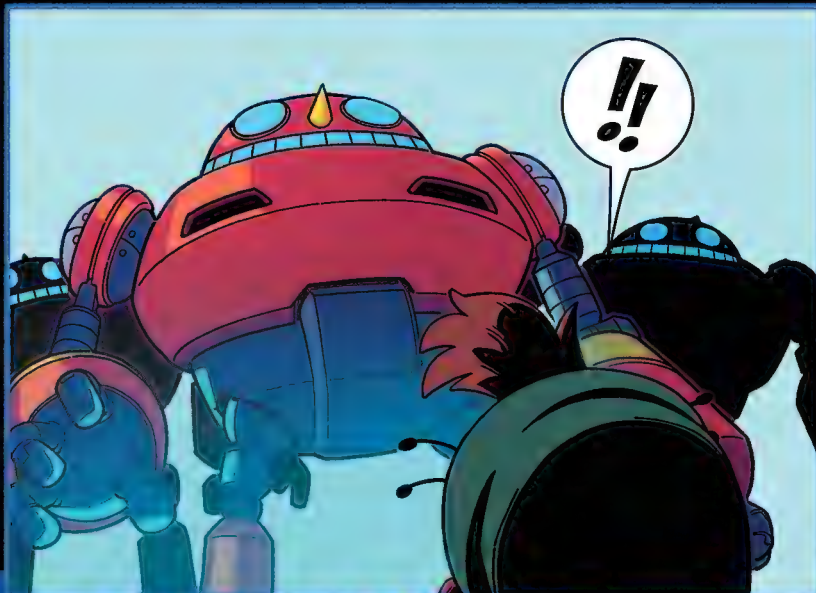
DO YOU
THINK HE'S
FINALLY LOSING
HIS TOUCH?



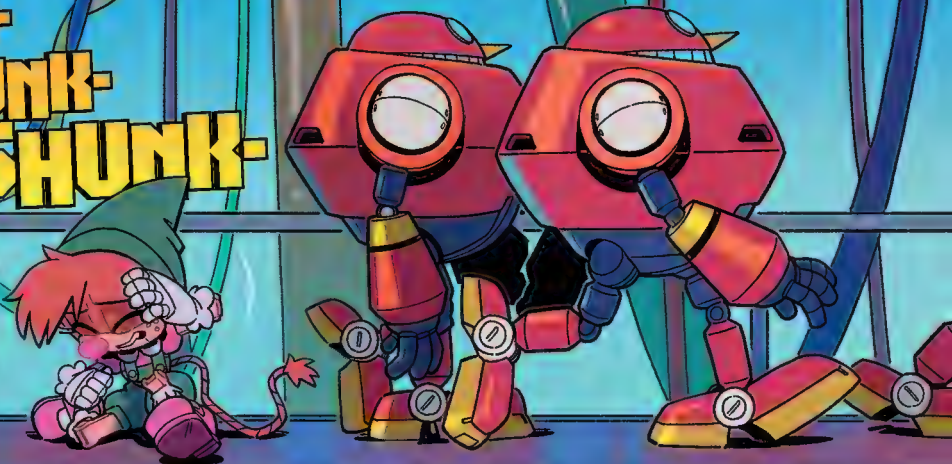
SHUT IT,
CUBOT...

SO, SONIC'S
ARRIVED? IT'S
UNEXPECTED,
BUT PERHAPS
NOT ENTIRELY
UNWELCOME.





**GASHUNK-
GASHUNK-
GASHUNK-**





WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?



I-I HAVE NO IDEA--

I WASN'T SURE BEFORE, BUT THIS PROVES IT. WHATEVER I WAS BUILT WITH, INSIDE... IT'S THE SAME AS THEM.

I AM A BADNIK.

BUT I... I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE. I JUST NEED ANSWERS. AND THE ONLY PERSON WHO WOULD KNOW IS DR. EGGMAN.

THE TRUTH. YOU WANTED TO COME HERE MORE THAN I DID. WHY?

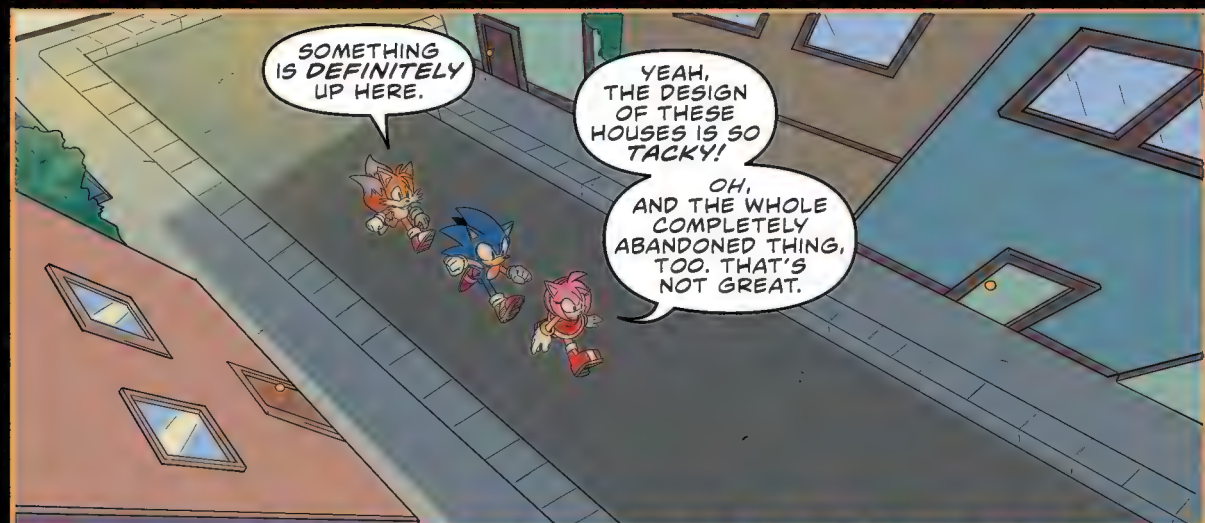


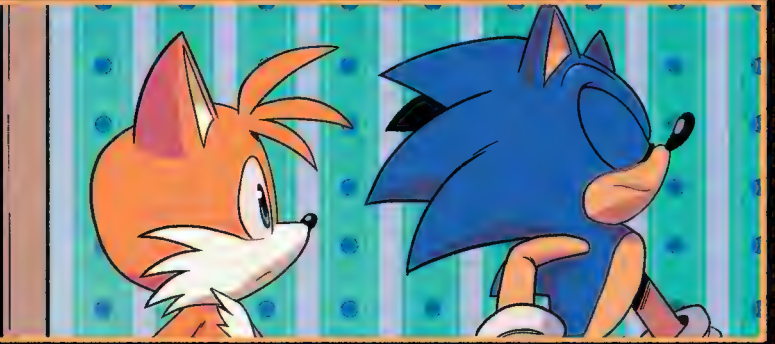
IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE, OR SMASH ME, I UNDERSTAND-- HUH?

SONIC AND TAILS VOUCHED FOR YOU, SO YOU'RE ALRIGHT IN MY BOOK. BESIDES...

...IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU CAME FROM, BECAUSE YOU'RE TRYING TO DO GOOD TODAY.

DON'T WORRY, I'M SURE WE CAN FIND YOU SOME ANSWERS.

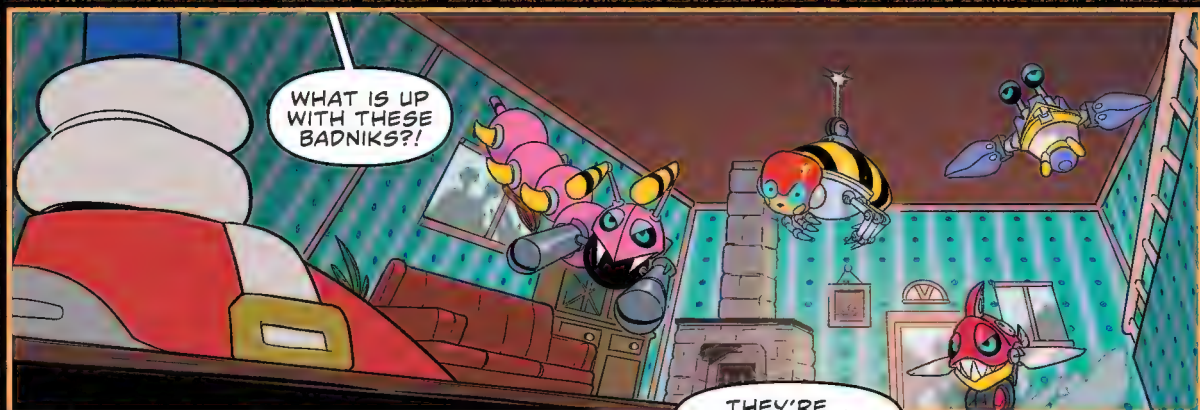
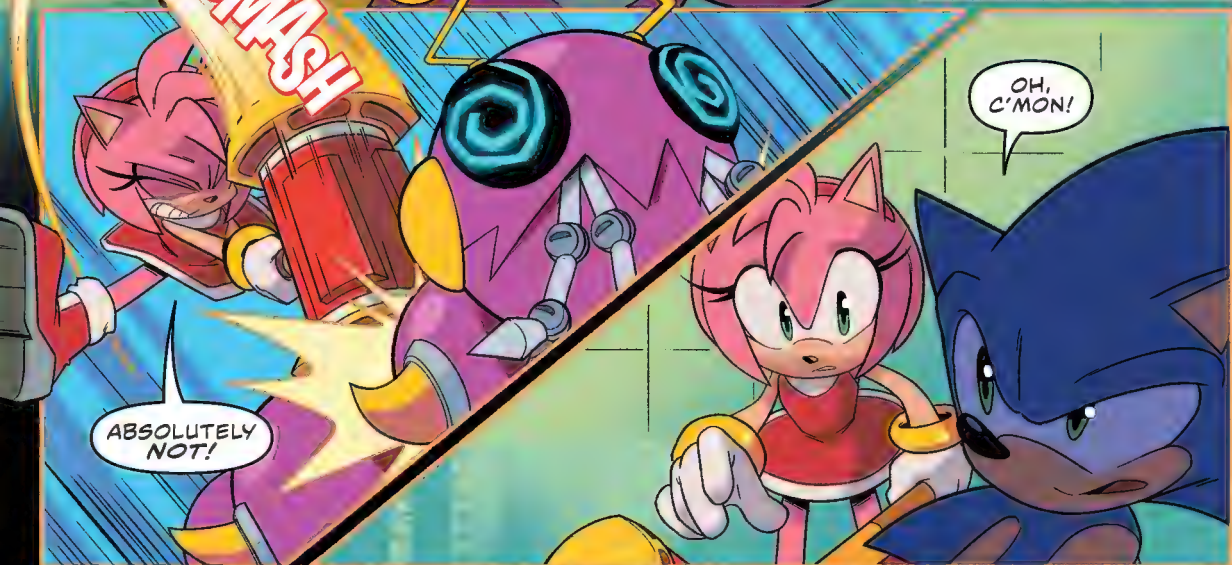
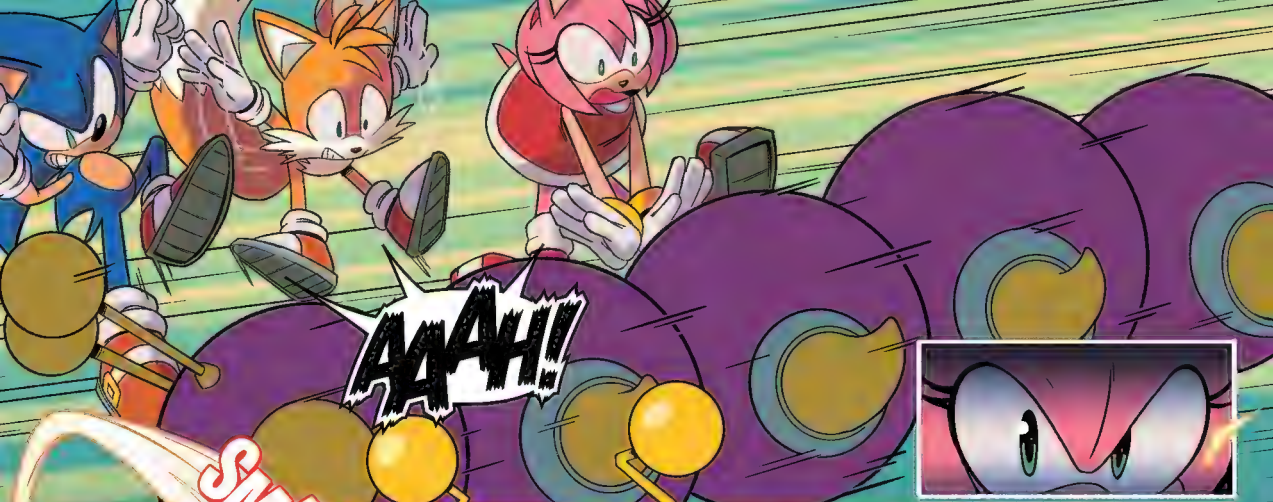


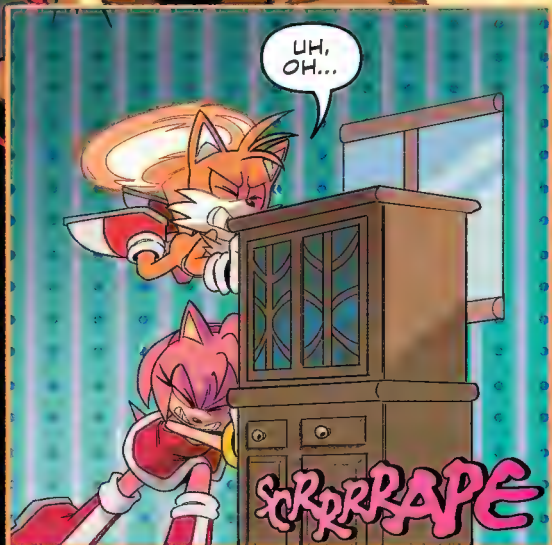


I'M OFFICIALLY UPGRADING THIS SITUATION FROM "WEIRD" TO "SUPER CREEPY."











ALRIGHT,
I'M ALL EARS.
WHAT'S
NEXT?

ACTUALLY,
I WAS HOPING
YOU MIGHT
HAVE SOME
IDEAS...



I SHOULD BE ABLE
TO TRACK THE BADNIKS'
WIRELESS COMM SIGNALS
BACK TO THEIR SOURCE...
THAT MIGHT GET
US TO AN EXIT.

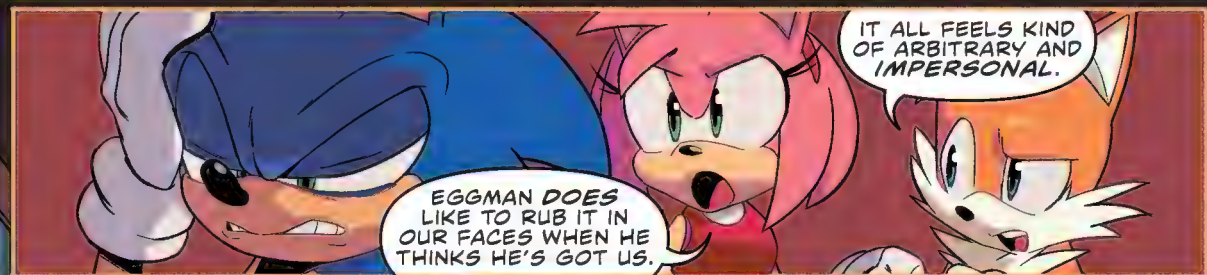
GIMME A
MINUTE TO GET
THE SENSORS
CALIBRATED.

GREAT!
THAT'S A
START.



WE STILL
DON'T KNOW
WHY ANY OF THIS
IS HAPPENING,
THOUGH.

I'M STILL
BETTING ON
IT BEING A
TRAP, BUT...



IT ALL FEELS KIND
OF ARBITRARY AND
IMPERSONAL.

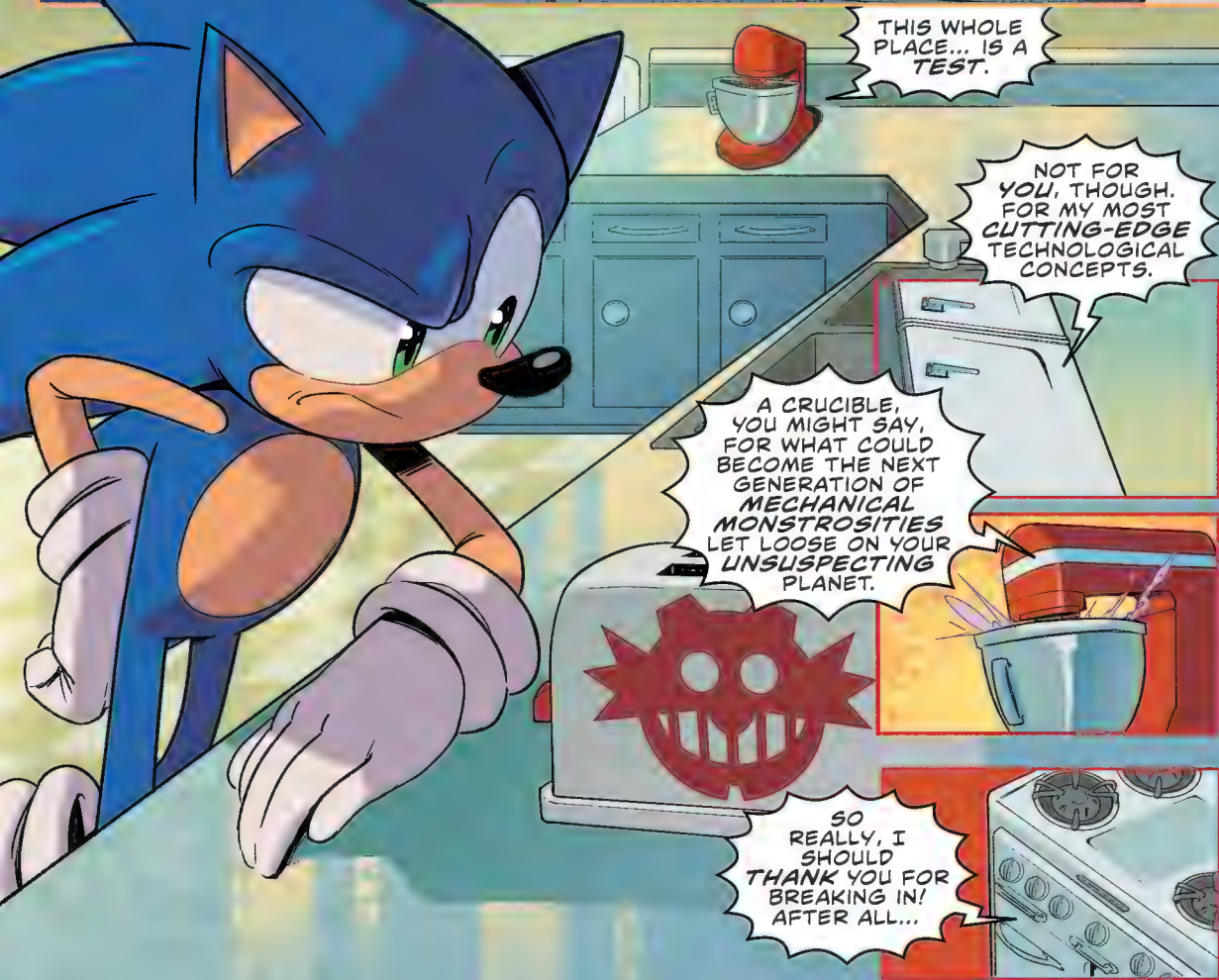
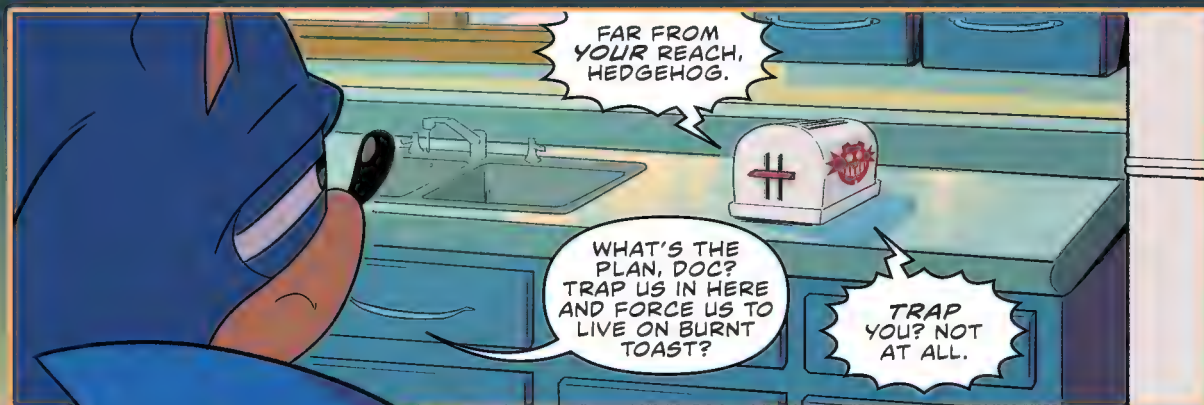
EGGMAN DOES
LIKE TO RUB IT IN
OUR FACES WHEN HE
THINKS HE'S GOT US.



UGH! ALL
THIS MYSTERY
IS PUTTING MY
QUILLS ON
EDGE.

NOW
THAT'S
MORE
LIKE IT!

OH NO NO NO



...NOW I
GET TO TEST
MY TOYS ON
SOME REAL
DUMMIES!



HO
HO
HO
HO

NEXT TIME:
A BACKSTAGE PASS!



NEXT MONTH



SONIC

LETTERS SQUAD



Hola, Sonic Squad! Eggman is speaking through appliances now...? You have to admit, he's creative! Thank you for joining Evan Stanley, Bracardi Curry, Matt Herms, and Shawn Lee for the "Test, Run," part two! Now, let's check out your art and letters!

Dear IDW Team,

I just wanted to write in and express my enjoyment of Evan Stanley's story arc, "Chao Races and Badnik Bases." This arc was refreshingly entertaining for me in a way that I haven't experienced in years. I've been reading the IDW Sonic comics and, before that, the Archie Sonic comics, continuously for about a decade, not to mention occasional issues as far back as 1998, so I think that says something. Stories of this caliber, or at least stories that were equally impressive to a younger version of myself, are what got me reading this franchise in the first place.

I don't have too much time to reflect and fully discern why I liked this arc so much in particular, but I know I liked the premise, somehow, even though on paper, it looks kind of contrived. I liked the way that Omega and Rouge were written. I liked the special winter outfits. I liked the organic, off-beat nature of the story, which kept the reader guessing as to what was actually going on instead of just building toward an inevitable and, therefore, anticipated conclusion. I liked the random but realistic anticlimaxes, such as the chateau having been engineered to survive an avalanche all along. And I'm sure the unified vision of one person acting as both the writer and the artist contributed to my appreciation, too (not to knock on Ian Flynn... I

probably would not have been reading this series in the first place if it weren't for him).

Anyway, I just want to say that I hope that Evan and everyone else involved with the team are still cranking out comics like this for years to come. As my wife and I contemplate starting a family, I would love to continue to have new Sonic comics to share with our children as they grow and learn to read. In the meantime, I'm looking forward to the next arc!

Best Regards,
John

Dear John,

Wow, it sounds like you really know your Sonic the Hedgehog comics, so it means so much that you're a fan of IDW's run. One of my favorite things about the stories that Ian and Evan tell is that everyone can enjoy them. While some people may be drawn to the speedy, action-packed fights of Sonic and Shadow, others may be drawn to the cuteness of Cream and Tails, and others to the soliloquies of Starline and Eggman. Sonic comics offer a lot to its readers and I think that's why people keep coming back! "Chao Race and Badnik Bases," (or CRABB, as we ended up calling it) is a great example of that—fun Chao races, creepy villains, and lots of scheming and action. We're so excited to have Evan on board as a writer. It's always interesting to see the ways in which different writers approach the same world, especially Evan who, as you mentioned, can illustrate her vision.





Thank you for your kind words and I hope you and your wife raise beautiful, Sonic-loving children!

Hi, IDW!

My name is Liam, and I've been a Sonic fan for 2 or 3 years. I really like how much effort is put into these books but I am really excited to see the next one!

Hi, Liam!

Thank you so much for your letter and art! I like that Sonic is going on a morning jog, he just can't sit still, can he?



You know, a lot of effort goes into making these comics—planning can start up to a year in advance and it takes a pretty big team to make sure these comics get into your hands. There's the writers, pencilers, inkers, colorists, editors, letters... and that's just a few of the many people that work on each issue! We all love Sonic and want to make sure that the fans of Sonic have a great product every month, so it does take a lot of effort, but it's worth it!

Thanks for joining us, Squad. Don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, maybe Eggman will make some toast? Find out in "Test Run," part three!





ART MATT HERMS



ART THOMAS ROTH LISBERGER **COLORS BRACARDI CURRY**



ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE